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➤ NEW TESTAMENT SUPPLEMENT ➤

OF

The Old Testament Student.

INDUCTIVE BIBLE-STUDIES.—SECOND SERIES.

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Forty Studies on the Life of the Christ, based on the Gospel of Mark.

Edited by William R. Harper, Yale University, New Haven.

STUDY XXI.—A DAY OF CONTROVERSY. MARK 11:27–12:17.

Résumé. 1. The reason for Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. 2. The explanation of the circumstances attending it. 3. The lesson of the barren fig-tree.

I. The Material Analyzed.

Read carefully Mark 11:27–12:17, and be able to make a definite statement concerning each of the following points, e. g. :

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| 1. Jesus in the temple (v. 27); | 4. the quotation (vs. 10,11); |
| 2. a discussion concerning his authority (vs. 28–33); | 5. the result (v. 12); |
| 3. parable of the wicked husbandmen (12:1–9); | 6. discussion concerning tribute (vs. 13–17). |

II. The Material Compared.

1. With Mk. 11:27–12:17 cf. Mt. 21:28–22:22; Lk. 20:1–26.
2. Note the light thrown on Mark in Mt. 21:28,46; 22:15,22; Lk. 20:1,6,20,26.
3. Observe the additional material, Mt. 21:28–32,43,44; 22:1–14; Lk. 20:18.
4. Compare carefully the three accounts of the parable, Mk. 12:1–9; Mt. 21:33–41; Lk. 20:9–16, observing likenesses and differences in statement, and note the bearing of the results upon the relation of these narratives to each other.

III. The Material Explained.

1. TEXTUAL TOPICS AND QUESTIONS.

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| 1) V. 27. | (a) <i>Walking</i> ; and teaching; an ancient custom. Cf. John 10:23.
(b) <i>Chief priests</i> , etc.; i. e. representatives of the ecclesiastical authority. | ized teacher; (3) of the Christ; (b) as to its <i>source</i> . Note its purpose, either (a) to inquire into his claims; (b) to find ground for accusation; (c) to awe him into silence, or (d) to discredit him before all. |
| 2) V. 28. | A double question; (a) as to the <i>kind</i> of authority, whether, e. g., (1) of a prophet; (2) of an author- | |

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| <p>3) V. 30. <i>The baptism of John</i>; i. e. his work as summed up in this symbol.</p> <p>4) Vs. 30-33. Consider the design of Jesus (a) to catch them; (b) to disclose their sin in relation to John; (c) to compel them to confess John's work as from God, and therefore (d) the <i>divine</i> source of his own authority to which John testified.</p> <p>5) Ch. 12:1. Learn something of oriental vine culture as represented here.</p> <p>6) V. 2. <i>Receive the fruits</i>; i. e. as rent for the land.</p> | <p>7) V. 10. (a) Explain the figure; (b) note the original application of the passage; (c) Jesus' use of it.</p> <p>8) V. 13. <i>They send</i>; for the persons sent cf. Mt. 22:16.</p> <p>9) V. 14. (a) <i>Carest not</i>; i. e. "art no partisan."
(b) <i>Regardest not the person</i>; a Hebrew idiom; cf. Deut. 1:17; Prov. 24:23.</p> <p>10) V. 17. (a) <i>Render</i>; lit. "pay back" what is due.
(b) <i>Marvelled greatly</i>; for what reason?</p> |
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2. GENERAL TOPICS.

- 1) **The Parable.** (a) Recall in a vivid picture the story (Mk. 12:1-9) and observe its relation to Isa. 5:1,2; (b) make a brief statement of what may be regarded as its essential teaching and compare this with Isa. 5:3-7; (c) study the details and determine how far they have a special application, e. g. (1) the vineyard, its parts and products; (2) the husbandmen, whether the people as a whole or their religious leaders; (3) the lord, the servants and the son; (4) the "others" (v. 9), whether the Gentiles or the followers of Jesus as a whole; (d) compare the parables in Mk. 4:1-34 in their purpose and form (cf. "Study" IX. iii. 2. 1)).
- 2) **The Political Situation.** (a) Note the existence of Cæsar's rule in Jerusalem (Mk. 12:14-17); (b) learn something of the way this rule was regarded (1) by the people in general, (2) by the Pharisees, (3) by the Herodians; (c) consider how Jesus was situated in relation to this rule, (1) what was expected of him as the Christ in national affairs, (2) the probable attitude of the Romans in view of this expectation; (d) from this point of view consider the critical importance of this question and its answer (vs. 15,17); (e) study the answer of Jesus (v. 17) and decide whether (1) it was an evasion, (2) it was a virtual surrender to Cæsar, (3) it offered a new solution of the problem; (f) if the latter, endeavor to state the principle which Jesus here laid down and observe the position of the Apostolic Church in relation to it (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17; Acts 4:19).

IV. The Material Organized.

1. *Gather the material* and classify it under the following heads: 1) persons; 2) habits and customs; 3) important teachings; 4) O. T. quotations; 5) literary data.
2. *Condense the material*, according to methods already employed, under the general topic of **Judgments of the King**, regarding 1) himself, 2) his people, 3) other rulers.

V. The Material Applied.

RELIGION AND POLITICS. 1. Having determined the teaching of Jesus upon the relations of politics and religion (Mk. 12:17) as to 1) their separation, and 2) the duty of the Christian to the State. 2. Apply these teachings to the following positions: 1) a Christian should have nothing to do with politics; 2) religious matters are a direct concern of the State; 3) the Church should interfere directly with questions of politics. 3. Show what bearing, if any, these teachings have upon the following subjects: *Religion in the common schools*; *Preaching the Gospel where civil law forbids*; *Political prohibition of the liquor traffic*; *Sabbath legislation*.